Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A data receiving device for accepting user indicia of authorization on a computer network having a user computer, wherein the user computer includes a display device and a pointer that defines locations on the display device, comprising:

an input device, wherein the input device is configured to control the pointer in the computer and configured to move the pointer in a continuous path on the display device, wherein movement of the input device is at a location remote from the display device and wherein such movement can be replicated by the pointer on the display device;

a data processor, the data processor further comprising:

a software applet, wherein the software applet configures an input pad comprising a data receiving region, the data receiving region being defined by a matrix grid;

a fitting algorithm, wherein the fitting algorithm is configured to smooth user indicia input for display in ~~into~~ the input pad;

a storage database; and

a processing script, wherein the processing script receives the processed input user indicia and stores the user indicia in the storage database.

2. (Original) A data receiving device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the software applet is configured to receive input data from the input device.

3. (Original) A data receiving device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the input data is a handwritten signature.

4. (Original) A data receiving device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the structure of the matrix grid is defined by pixel coordinates.

5. (Currently Amended) A system for receiving and processing user indicia of authorization, on a computer network, comprising:

a user computer, wherein the user computer includes an input device, a display device and a pointer that defines locations on the display device, wherein the input device is configured to move the pointer in a continuous path on the display device, the input device being configured to operate at a location remote from the display device, wherein movement of the input device can be replicated by the pointer on the display device;

a data processor, the data processor further comprising:

a software applet, wherein the software applet configures an input pad on the display device, comprising a data receiving region, the data receiving region being defined by a matrix grid;

a fitting algorithm, wherein the fitting algorithm is configured to smooth user indicia input for display in the data receiving region by the user;

a storage database; and

a processing script, wherein the processing script receives the processed user indicia and stores the indicia in the storage database.

6. (Previously Amended) A system as claimed in claim 5 further comprising a data retrieval mechanism.

7. (Previously Amended) A system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the software applet is configured to receive input data from the input device.

8. (Previously Amended) A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the input data is a handwritten signature.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for receiving and processing user indicia of authorization on a computer network having a user computer, wherein the user computer includes an input device, a display device and a pointer that defines locations on the display

device, wherein the input device includes an entry member and is configured to move the pointer in a continuous path on the display device, comprising:

presenting a user an HTML page containing an applet, wherein the applet configures an input pad having a data receiving region on the display device;

placing the pointer within the data receiving region via the input device;

depressing the entry member on the input device;

moving the pointer within the data receiving region via the input device to create user indicia of authorization within the data receiving region, wherein movement of the input device is at a location remote from the display device;

applying a fitting algorithm to the user indicia;

compressing the user indicia;

converting the compressed user indicia to a digital bitmap image;

assigning a unique code to the user indicia; and

storing the user indicia in a database.

10. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising recording field information associated with the user indicia.

11. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising retrieving the stored user indicia.

12. (Previously Presented) A data receiving device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the user indicia is defined by the value of the pixel coordinates upon which the user indicia is deposited in the data receiving region.

13. (Previously Presented) A data receiving device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the software applet is integrated into an HTML page.

14. (Currently amended) A data receiving device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a data retrieval mechanism, wherein the data retrieval mechanism is configured to restrict access to the storage database.

15. (Previously Presented) A data receiving device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the input device further comprises an entry member, wherein the depression of the entry member activates the data input capability of the input device.

16. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 5, further comprising a participant computer, wherein the participant computer is assigned a participant code and a data retrieval mechanism.

17. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the data retrieval mechanism is configured to restrict the access of the participant computer to the user indicia stored in the storage database which is associated with the participant code.

18. (New) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein applying a fitting algorithm further comprises:

segmenting the user indicia input by the input device into segments; and

identifying control points each segment, wherein the distance between the control points is predefined and is associated with a predefined fitting criteria.

19. (New) A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the fitting algorithm utilizes Bezier curves.